

National Background Check Program

Kentucky Applicant Registry & Employment Screening Web Portal

PILOT Launched on May 12, 2014

FRANKFORT, KY. - The Cabinet for Health and Family Services Office of Inspector General (OIG) has launched a new Web Portal – KARES in support of the National Background Check program. KARES is a fingerprint-supported State and FBI background check program launched by the OIG to help long-term care and other providers research the backgrounds of new job applicants.

All providers that wish to participate in the National Background Check Program Pilot and use the KARES Web Portal are strongly encouraged to enroll in the program and help reduce the potential for abuse, neglect or exploitation, including financial exploitation, of elderly and vulnerable adults. **PLEASE ACCEPT THIS INVITATION AND JOIN THIS PROGRAM.**

ENROLLING AT THIS TIME, the cost of the background check will be \$20 (same as a name-base state check). Federal Grant funds will be used to subsidize the cost of the FBI check on new hires so that participating employers will not be financially impacted initially. The increase in cost after the Grant period will be less than fees charged by 3rd party vendors. Your participation and feedback of this new service will allow the cabinet to address your concerns and enhance the program.

KARES is an integrated software system for participating employers to research abuse registries without going to multiple websites or contacting multiple agencies, confirm that an individual's professional license is in good standing, and initiate a State and FBI fingerprint check. By adding fingerprint checks in lieu of name-based checks, the potential for misidentification of the applicant is greatly reduced. In addition, the FBI check will prevent applicants from hiding criminal history from other states which may rise to the level of a disqualifying offense in Kentucky.

"KARES is a critical initiative that dramatically improves the ability of long-term care and other providers to research the backgrounds of potential employees, ruling out individuals with histories of violence, abuse or exploitation that occurred in other states," said CHFS Secretary Audrey Tayse Haynes. ***"By participating in this program, providers are joining us in our ongoing work to address elder abuse and improve patient care in various settings, demonstrating that they are willing to go above and beyond what is required to ensure patient care and safety."***

"The website <http://www.chfs.ky.gov/os/oig/kares/> provides information about the program, why it's beneficial for employers and how to use KARES Web Portal. All providers – should visit the site to learn more."

Additional information can be obtained by contacting the program's help service via email, KARES.Helpdesk@ky.gov. or by telephone: (502) 564-2159.

The Cabinet for Health and Family Services is home to most of the state's human services and health care programs, including Medicaid, the Department for Community Based Services and the Department for Public Health. CHFS is one of the largest agencies in state government, with nearly 8,000 full and part-time employees throughout the Commonwealth focused on improving the lives and health of Kentuckians.